NEW YORK BEETS TOWN TOWN AND HANDER AND THE BUPPLEMENT.

THE SHERMAN EXPEDITION.

Highly Important from Southern Mississippi.

Full Details of the Extensive Raid Through Mississippi from Our Special Correspondent.

Glorious Success to Our Arms.

THE CAPTURE OF MERIDIAN.

One Hundred and Fifty Miles of Rebel Ratiroad Communication Destroyed.

The Key to the Rebel Military Operations in the Southwest Irreparably Ruined.

Mississippi Redeemed from Rebel Rule.

Full Details of the Entire Expedition from Its Departure Until It Returned to the Mississippi River,

&c.,

Mr. De B. Randolph Keim's Despatches Meridian, Miss., Feb. 19, 1864. TION OF THE EXPEDITION-PLAN OF MARCH.

For several weeks prior to the setting out of the preedition General Sherman had been industriously and quietty at work organizing a force which was destined for one of the most brilliant and effective movements of the war. At Memphis be gathered a body of cavalry sumbering about eight thousand, under General Wm. th, and, when it was thoroughly organized, ordered it to move at a certain time and sever the rail roads somewhere in the vicinity of this place. From Memphis the General left for Vickeburg, having

previously moved thence the larger part of the Sixteenth sorps. This force, together with a portion of the Beventeenth corps, was consolidated into a column for movement in the direction of Meridian the railroad connecting Vicksburg, Jack son and Meridian. It was determined also to transpor paign in the wagons. For subsistance the troops were to depend mainly upon the country. By this plan the embarrassed by being obliged to keep open a long line of communication with the rear. Everything sary to insure the success of the enterprise was thoroughly accomplished.

should be stated that, notwithstanding the promise and ment act, there was but little dissatisfaction among the men, and that only among a class those who are never contented. The majority seemed anxious to add another page to their bright record, and to go home crowned with the glories of another campaign Under such auspicious circumstances and feelings the forces of the expedition left Vicksburg on the morning of February 3, and moved by several roads, each corps for its respective designated crossing of the Big Black river As the expedition covers a large extent of tearstory, will be impossible to give it that minuteness of deta which it deserves. I will confine myself to the cardina

very crude form of narration. CROSSING THE BLACK RIVER AND ADVANCE At one o'clock on February 3 the troops of the Seven seenth corps crossed the Big Black at the railroad bridge while the Sixteenth corps at the same time crossed a ston of Vicksburg by our forces during last July the Bi Black has been held by a detachment of our forces as an outpost and defence against the too close encroachmen

features of the expedition, and even this will require

the enemy's cavalry, which has never for any length of time entirely disappeared from our front. Beyond sursions have been made into the territory, either for re conpolesance or destruction of the enemy's supplies the adversary, and his pickets and parties of observation were soon seen or encountered. On the eve miles from the river.

march. The Sixteenth corps experienced little opposition alusively absorbed by the advance of the Seventeent sorps, it having the main travelled road. Upon arriving the vicinity of the old battle field of Champion's a more determined abstillty than we had experienced suring the earlier part of the day.

afout one o'clock to the afternoon the cavalry attentioners came together. In carairy this part of the accedition was deficient, the main hard of the mounted force of the mounted that is unpartment having been concentrated Memphis for the purpose already mentioned a consequence, a'ter a brick affair between these two bodies, the infentry of the corps was brought forward, and, though the easuing contest never narumed the dimensions of a battle, it was decidedly, for a time, a considerable akirmusb. The Fiftcouth and lighteenth lithuois infantry, Colonel Rogers and Major Melty, and an Ohio nattery were the forces angaged on ide of the creek also made preparations for the and the pickets of the two armies stood arrayed against

es of the enemy, as learned from a private letter cap prisoners, several were lost in Foster's battation. which opened the engagement. We captured a lieutecant and seven privates. Both partice used artillery during the day. Lieutenant Colonel A. M. Powell, chief of ar which in every case proved very effective. The enemy

overed our pieces during the day.

on their route with little del potion, though skirm shing PAS CODEDUOUS.

ENGAGENT AT WEAR CLISTON

Dipos arriving at manday in the vicinity of Cliston the

contest. The day, bowever, was but momentary, and me soon mr, sed forward, and marched through Clinton without 'salting. The Sixteenth corps during the day encour_tered a more decided opposition than during the ceding day. Both corps, however, suffered liftle loss

On the same afternoon Colonel Winslow's cavalry, of the Seventeenth corps, succeeded in capturing one piece of artiflery and a cameon, and drove the enemy towards Jackson, on the outskirts of which short, and the enemy withdrew rapidly across Pearl pursued the Canton road towards the north. General Stephen D. Lee commanded the enemy's force, and the orders was highly effective and he was warmly compli

nested by our commanding officers.

Our loss during these affairs was twenty killed and wounded. General McPherson in these affairs was noveral times made the target of the enemy's sharpshooters and artillery. Lieutenant Colonel Clark, Adjutant General of the Seventeenth corps, in person directed the ope rations of the cavalry on this day, and, by one successful charge ordered by him and executed by the Eleventh Illinois cavalry, under Colonel Kerr, completely discom-fixed the enemy and hastened his flight. In this last affair Colonel Clark's horse suffered a severe wound in the leg, completely disabling him, and the Colonel himself was hit by a splinter on the finger, and narrowly escaped more serious injury from the missiles.

The same evening the beadquarters of the Seventeenth corps were in Jackson, and the main body of the troops divouacked within five miles of the city. The Sixteent corps joined us at Jackson. The first person in the town was Lieutenant Vernay.

The next day was spent in reconstructing the bridge across Pearl river. The enemy, after crossing, merely out the guy ropes and some of the timbers floated off; but the boats were not damaged. Captain Andrew Heckenlooper. Chief Engineer of the Seventeenth corps, had the bridging of the river under his superintendence, assisted tains Black and Merritt

On February 7, at seven A. M., our forces commenced crossing Pearl river, the Seventeenth corps is advance. There was but little skirmishing during the day. The army encamped in the vicinity of Brandon. This day our troops captured a deserter from the Thir-teenth Illinois, Company G, who had deserted to Wirt Adams on the first attack on Vickeburg. He was recog nized by some of ble company. French, with two brigades, was in Branden in the morning of the day upon which our forces took possession. ENGAGEMENT AT LINE CREEK.

The next day the army moved forward with little or

opposition until arriving in the vicinity of Line creek. Here a considerable force of the enemy was discovered in line of battle in front of a house inhabited by a family. The enemy fired upon our advance cavalry, under Col. Winslow. The volley was returned. Accidentally one was discovered dead when the enemy broke. Her family were properly cared for. The reason given for the rapid withdrawal of the chemy was insubjydingtion on the part of some of his infantry. The greatest demoralization is said to prevail, and the refusal to fight is very good evidence of the fact. On this night vouncked on Line creek. The probab strength of the enemy, based upon statements received from prisoners and deserters, was set down at fifteen

THE ADVANCE RESUMED—CHANGE OF FRONT. On the 9th the army was again in motion by eight clock. Rather reliable information was received in the night that the enemy would fight at Morton: but upon ar riving at that place about noon it was discovered that be and left several bours before. The Seventeenth corps here went into camp, in order to allow the Sixteenth corps to take the advance. During the day fifty desert

From Morton on the next day the army made fifteen mises and bivounced. During the march several foragers from our army were captured by the enemy, and it has been stated upon good authority that they were bung.

The next day's march was necessarily very slow mand were temperarily consolidated under Captain Hickenlooper. The energy exhibited by this officer and the efficiency of fthe work executed under his supervision reflected great credit upon his engineering ability withstanding all these delays the army, with all its rains, made twelve miles and went into camp.

On the following morning Captain J. S. Foster, Fourth bio Independent cavalry, commanding cavalry bat talion, set out, in accordance with orders, and moved to take a station on the railroad. A small orce of the enemy in the village was soon driven out, and two engines, thirty-five cars, a turn-table, round house, machine shops and several mills were destroyed—to al valued at five hundred thousand dollars.

NARROW ESCAPS OF GENERAL SHERMAN. On the 12th our army arrived to the evening at Deca ur. In the afternoon about two hundred of the enemy under Cantain Kayanaugh, made a dash upon the wago: train of the Sixteenth corps, killing twenty-four mules but no men. General Sherman almost fell into the hands of the enemy, and was saved only by the valor of his the affair, and the enemy as quickly withdrew.

Ou February 13 General Chambers, commanding the lowa Brigade, took the advance and led off camp on Big Chunkey river at half-past eight o'clock P M. Up to this time no reliable news had been received

The next day the army advanced twelve miles, with little skirmishing. On the same day General M. F. Force He set out before daylight. His expedition was success ful, effecting everything that was designed. On the same day, also, the trains were left on Chunkey river, under s strong guard, commanded by General Chambers. The rest of the troops, with two wagons, two ambulances and one hospital wagon to a regiment, moved forward qui kly

apon Meridian. occupation of Meridian. The advance of the Sixteenth corps entered during th afternoon without opposition, the enemy having previous ly withdrawn. The Seventeenth corps camped that night the 15th in a terride rain storm.

Upon arriving in the village it was found that the great object of the expedition was not defeated, and the destruction of the railroads was at once commenced, not withstanding the rain.

The entire concentrated force of the enemy, as already stated, in this section is estimated at fifteen thousand men. Opposing our movement were two divisions, under reach and Loring, including the brigades of Feether-stone. John Adams, Allen, Whitaker, Buford, Baldwin and Cockerel. The morals of their army is shocking. In several instances, according to the reports of desorter throwing down their arms. From report? I learn that the enemy determined to make a stand at Brandon, Morton, near Line creek and at Me ridian but at none of these points could the mer be prevailed upon to stand. In the vicinity of Line cree; the enemy formed in ime of battle four times; but so great had become the panic and consequent insubor diuation upon the approach of our army that severa regiments were put under guard and marched to the rear. One very convincing fact of this state of the ene cavalry between his infantry and our army. On one oc easion, when his cavalry became so closely pressed as t filty deserters came within our imes. All of theseemed to be of the opinion that further rebellion was an necessary and useless; that they had nothing favorable to hope for, and that the continuance of the struggle was but magnifying their sufferings and more surely consummating the ruin of themselves, their nomes and their best interests. There has been so movement of the war in which the hopeiess sees of the Southern cause has been brought more direct

this section than the present, and doubtiess before the

GENERAL SHERMAN'S CONGRATULATORY ORDER.

Upon the occupation of Meridian General sherman ned the following congratulatory address to his troops:-

sued the following congratulatory address to his troops:—

fire appearances, Diparteent of the Tennissee Marines, Mise, Feb. 15, 1864.

The General Commanding conveys his congratulations and thanks to the officers and mon composing this command for their most successful accomplishment of one of the great problems of the war. Moridian, the great railway centre of the Southwest, is now in our possession, and by industry and hard work can be rendered uscless to the eveny and deprive him of the chief source of supply to his armies. Secrecy in plan and rapidity of execution accomplish the best results of war; and the General Commanding assures all that by following their leaders fearlessly and with confidence they will in time resp the reward so dear to us all—a peace that will never again be disturbed in our country by a discontented minority.

By order of Major General Commanding.

FLAN OF ACTION.

PLAN OF ACTION. The following instructions were issued to the troops by

General Sherman:

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF RIB TENNESSES, MERIDIAN, Miss., Feb. 16, 1984.

1. The destruction of the railroads intersecting at Meridian is of great importance and should be done, nost effectually. Every tie and rail for many miles in each circution should be absolutely destroyed or injured, and every bridge and outvert should be completely destroyed. To insure this end, to General Huribut is entrusted the cestruction east and north, and to General Mel'herson the reads west and south. The troops should be impressed with the importance of this work, and also that time is material, and therefore it should be logun at once and be prosecuted with all the energy possible. Working parties should be composed of about one half the command, and they should move by regiments, provided with their arms and haversacks, ready to repost attacks of cavairy. The other half in reserve will be able to watch the enemy retreating castward.

2. Colonel E. F. Wiselow, commanding cavairy, will

to watch the enemy retreating eastward.

2. Colonel E. F. Winslow, commanding cavalry, will keep hie cavalry to advance of the party working eastward, and will act as though this army were slowly purward, and will act as inough this army were slowly pur-suing the enemy.

3. Special instructions will be given as to to the gen-eral supply train; and the troops now in Meridian will, under proper brigade parties, collect meal, meat and aupplies. The destruction of buildings must be deferred till the last moment, when a special detail will be made

W. T. SHERMAN, Major General Commanding.

THE RAILROADS DESTROYED—CAPTURE OF ENTERPRISE AND QUITMAN.

In obedience to the instructions, the destruction of the allroads in the village and vicinity was entrusted to the superintendence of Chief Engineer Hickenlooper, assisted by Captains Black and Merritt and the pioneer companies of the several divisions of the Seventeenth corps. Gene ral Veatch's division, of the Sixteenth corps, destroyed the road fifteen miles east, in the direction of Demopolis, Ala.; General A. J. Smith's division, of the same corps towards the north; Crocker's and Leggett's divisions, of the Seventeenth corps, towards the west and south. General Crocker, with his division, on the second day

after our occupation of Meridian, moved against and captured the town of Enterprise, destroying the ratiroad completely along his route. General W. Q. Gresham, of Crocker's division, with his brigade, penetrated fourteen miles further south, to

Quitman, tearing up the railroad, burning the ties, bending the rails, destroying three miles of treatle work, several steam mills, and a bridge over two hundred feet in length. A still more remarkable feature of this expedition is the fact that the brigade, from seven A. M. till nine P. M. of the same day, marched twenty-seven miles, spending four hours of the time in effecting the above mentioned destruction. This is quite a flattering commencement of the General's career under his new rank Generals Maitby, Force, Kirby Smith and Colonel Hall,

with their brigades, also did valuable service on the southern and western sections of the road on the second day. Colonel B. F. Potts' brigade was ordered along the oad towards the west and completed us destruction after which he moved for the wagon train parked on Big ordered here with his command. The great feat of the expedition in the way of marching was performed by this brigade on this occasion. On the day after Colonel Potts arrived it set, out at seven A. M. and marched spent an hour out of the six in resting. During our occupa tion of this place up to the present the work of destroying railroads has been continually going on; but the burning of government buildings is reserved for the day of our departure in return. This was a matter of foresight, with the design of sheltering our troops in case of a return of MERIDIAN.

Meridian is a village of three hundred inhabitants, in Mississippi, about midway between the northern and southern boundary of the State, and Ofteen miles from section of the Mobile and Ohio Railroad from Columbus Ky., and the Southern Railroad from Vicksburg to Selma, Ala. In consideration of this the place was one of im mense importance to the enemy, in a military point of view, and has been the centre of much of the material of war belonging to the confederacy in this section Prior to the success attending our arms last summer Meridian was the key to communications between the trans-Mississippi Department, Vicksburg Mobile and the Bast. The surrender of Vicksburg and the destruction of the railroad to Jackson put an rebel occupation west of the Pearl river, wrested from them fifty miles of road and severed intercourse with their armies west of the Mississippi. The present expedition has been equally as important in the destruction of the centre of the entire network of communication in the Southwest line of railroads has fallen from his control. Henceforth a force destined to reinforce Mobile will be obliged to perform many miles of the distance on foot, or else use water communication by the Tombigbee and Alabama

From the character of the buildings and improvements of the town it was evidently the intention of the enemy to establish here the great military post of the entirouthwest. An arsenal, extensive depots and warehouses, machine shops, barracks and hospitals, all new tion. A partly completed residence was pointed out to me as having been erected for the use of General Polk.

the commanding general of the department. Many other buildings were being constructed, probably with a view to the accommodation of officers. However, all these pians have been protty effectually disarranged, and the confederacy in the future will be obliged to select a less convenient locality in order to carry out its dreams of authority in the Southwest From present appearances there will shortly be as choice

left them west of Georgia.

The country through which the army passed was mainly uninviting in prospect and quality of soil. The swampy. The country between the Pearl and Mississippi rivers is much more fertile than that between the and Tombigbee. Agriculture in the first mentioned section receives some attention, and the investment of capital and in both has brought into existence some excellent plantations, but west of the reari the land is almost worthless, and hardly repays the primitive and economi cal manner of its custivation. Here we meet with aimost a continuous pine forest which would make excellent lumber-and here opens a fine field for an enterprising Yankee, Land varies from Iwenty five cents to five dollars per acre, with the convenience of railroad transpor tation, which was at hand and will be again upon the re turn of peace. A steam sawmill would be profitable, an and all the river towns and cities, inclusive of New Oriesas.

THE POPULATION. As a consequence of the condition of the country sar culturally its population is very sparse, and the fee perhaps as little of the present struggle between the North and South as possible for human beings, and seem issue. Upon the advance of our forces some would secretothers would look on with an apathetic stare and, as might be expected, no bustility towards ou soldiers was evinced. It is a matter of no surpr se that the secession movement found many supporters in this section, for the inhabitants are not given to thinking for ersuanion to force their ignorant minds into the bellet versed the rest of its route on the way back the population unformed nationality and the oncertainties attending re THE SUPPLIES FOR THE EXPEDITION.

When the expedition left Vicksburg twenty days' sup piles of hard bread, sugar, coffee and sait were placed to wagons, and orders were issued for the troops to subsist upon the country. Upon our arrival here it was found that the troops had consumed but four out of twelve the remainder of the subsistence having been drawn from the country. At present there are seve ral mills in the vicinity in full operation grinding meal. The average capacity of each mill is about six bushels per hour, which has been found a valuable assistance

in the supply of the troops. On the march a large number of mills were destroyed, and all of shem will doubtless share the same fate as our army withdraws. The mills of the country have been the support of the enemy during his occupation of this region.
Their destruction is as goat an obstacle to his reoccupa tion of Southern Mississippi as the rule of railroad com-

NON-ARRIVAL OF SMITH'S CAVALRY.

When this portion of the expedition arrived here it was found that General Smith's cavalry had not yet made its appearance. Several days before oners that be had been at Lauderdale Station forty five miles above. Nothing further, bowever, has been received, and it is doubtful whether that information was correct. A great deal depended upon the coful in accomplishing what was laid out for it the enemy's stores, and possibly many of his troops, would have cause of his non-appearance. By some it is supposed that he encountered a stronger opposition from Forrest's command then was looked for. It hardly seems probable that he would have deviated so far from his course as to attack Selma. The greatest curiosity prevails among

movements, WHY THE REPELS PRIL BACK.

It was at one time supposed that the ready giving way of the enemy upon our advance was the effect of Smith's presence in their rear. It is now known that the enemy presuming our destination was Mobile, fell back with a view to enticing us into the country, as they explain their movement. They have now learned, when too late, tering here were the main objects to be attained. It is said that General Polk remarked that if he had known this he would have given us fight before reaching Meridian. This is one way of covering up the demoralization of his army. If Smith had come up it is not improbable we would have verified his expectation and marched for Mobile: and it is not boastful to add that General Shorman would have been fully able to consummovement in the capture of the last important city of he enemy to the Southwest.

The accomplishment of the expedition thus far could not have been favored by more agreeable weather. morning of the entrance of the Seventeenth corps into the village the sun shone continuously and beautifully. The roads were consequently in excellent condition and marching an agreeable duty. The rain has now passed, leaving the atmosphere quite cold. This, however, will

HEADQUARTERS, SEVENTEENTH ARMY CORPS.
IN CAMP, ON BIG CHUNERY RIVER, MISS.,
Feb. 29, 1804. THE ACCOMPLISHMENT OF THE EXPEDITION—EVACUATION OF

Yesterday afternoon, the destruction of the railroads being fully accomplished, orders were tissued by General Shorman for the troops to evacuate Meridian, the route and length of each day's march until our ar

rival at Hitlaboro being given.

This morning at daylight the commands still in the village were in movement. During the two days imme diately prior to our departure the larger part of the troops had been distributed in various directions to quicken the prosecution of the work of authorized destruclon. By last evening the greater part of the troops had che roed to this place, and it was then ordered that the Six ton th corpo which Gos. Sherman accompanied in person, should move northward towards Marion, while the Seven teenth corps was ordered to return by the route of our advance. Crocker having moved the night before with his division directly from Enterprise to the main road, five miles this corps should move to Hillsboro, a distance of sixty miles, where the Sixteenth corps will join us, and the wagon trains, which are moving one day in advance of

DESTRUCTION OF THE RENEL GOVERNMENT SUNDINGS-RE

Upon the withdrawal of our forces from Meridian this burned by orders from the legitimate authorities. The last company that left the town was Foster's Fourth Independent Ohio cavalry, commanded by Lieutenant S. D. Porter. The object in leaving this force was to prevent any unauthorized destruction of private property by

A large number of refugees, particularly employes of the railroads, are accompanying the army to Vicks burg. These people have furnished their own conveyances and provisions, and will probably be many of them will be placed in empty gov-ernment wagons and otherwise cared for. Those escape the dominion of the tyrangy they have expe security of the Northern States. A large number of the inevitable contrabands are also accompanying the army

MOVEMENTS OF THE RESELS. We have learned some further intelligence as to the seems the largest force moved southward, towards Mobile, while another force has gone to Demopolis, or cavalry, under Ross and Adams, are reported on our danks, but have stood at a distance, giving us no troubl

At four o'clock P. M., after having marched fifteen niles—the day's murch ordered by General Shermanthis part of the army bivouscked upon the stream from which the present letter to dated.

HEADQUARTERS, SEVENTERNIN ARMY CORPS, THESE MILES EAST OF PRART. RIVER, Feb. 25, 1864. On February 21, at seven A. M., with Leggett's di ision in the advance, this corps was again in motion As we were about moving out several tents were dis found to contain several smallpox patients. The Medical Director of this corps, Dr. Boucher, immediately inquired into their condition, and found that they belonged to the left with the Sixteenth corps train. The men had n adequate attendance and were without food and medi Dr. Boucher at once secured several ambuinner, and placed the patients in them, with proper persons to care for them, and until the conjunction of the two corps, when they were case of tufamous neglect will be reported to Dr. Campbell, Medical Director of the Sixteenth corps; and there is no doubt the author of the outrage will be deservedly dismissed from the service.

after marching with good speed, considering the swamps through which we passed, the corps bivouacked the vicinity of Decatur

On the next day the command made seventeen miles and provinced on Untacota creek. On the 23d, in the aftergood, the Serenteenth corps optered Hillsboro, and shortly after the Sixteeuth entered also. The latter command ad successfully accomplished, with little opposition, the object of its march to Marton and to this point. Orders were immediately issued that the trains should be divided and such corps prepare to move again in the

On February 24 General Chambers, with his lows Brigade, moved at daylight on the main Canton read for Pearl river, with instructions to reach that point (about thirty index) by night. A pioneer corps was orsame road to prepare the bridge for the passage of the two corps. The same working the Sixteenth corps left by the same road, and the seventeenth by another, | mont to some of the subjugated States would day with say hundred

This afternoon both corps were within several miles o the river, and bivouscked, awaiting the completion of the bridge. Fortunately several scows were found, which answered the purpose of pontoons. The entire length of bridging was one hundred and sixty feet.

PRARL RIVER ENCROSSED. By five o'clock this afternoon Chambers, in the adrance, crossed the river without opposition, and moved a ow miles and bivouncked. The advance of the Sixteenth corps immediately followed. At nine o'clock in the evening some difficulty was experienced with one of the scows, and the crossing was discontinued while the engineers again went to work to repair the difficulty.

I should have stated that on the first day out from Hillsboro several of our advance encountered several of rebel officers at a house, and as they attempted to make their escape shot the horse of Colonel Ballantine's Adjutant General. The party were not captured, in consequence of the ignorance of our men of the reads, our party expecting to intercept them on the right, when the left was the proper direction.

CANTON, Miss., Feb. 26, 1864. At midnight the bridge across the Pearl was repaired and crossing was immediately resumed. The Sixteenth corps was all over by six o'clock A. M., and the Sevensenth at once followed. The entire army moved directly

By noon Chambers entered the town and placed his entire brigade on provest duty to prevent the robbing of citizens and destruction of property. The Fourth lowar cavalry, under Colonel Winslow, entered from the north, bringing in a large number of wagons and quantities of bacon and negroes, which were being taken off by citi-

The Sixteenth and Seventeenth corps both camped in the vicinity of the town during the afternoon.

Conton was entirely evacuated before our troops ar rived. We captured seventeen engines, thirty cars and

The people of the town were less vindictive towards our officers and men than have been the people in the other regions through which we passed. Ladies prome naded the streets, notwithstanding the presence of our soldiers. General Sherman has ordered for the present that the Seventeenth corps shall operate between this point and Pearl river, and the Sixteenth between here and the Big Black. The object is the destruction of railroads and other operations of an important character.

RETURN TO VICESBURG.

Yesterday morning at eight o'clock, excerted by the ourth Iowa cavalry, Colonel Winslow, General Sherman and staff set out from Cauton for this place. This being the first opportunity, I also accompanied the party. The miles. By seven o'clock this morning we arrived at the Big Black, and taking an extra train we reached here at ten o'clock. The two corps were left at Canton to carry out the instructions given them, which I have ed in a former lettter. The expedition, however, may now be considered completed, and a very brief re view of the whole may not be out of place here.

seems to have been the demotition of the chain of railways centering at Meridian. In effecting this General hundred miles of road have been literally destroyed, no thing being left but bent and useless rails. As regards the future reoccupation of the State by the enemy, this is an impossibility. The sub-sistence of our large force upon the meagre roduce in store in the country has drawn off, in all probability, more than the surplus above the im many to leave the State or seek other portions that have ot been visited by our troops. This being the case, with his very poor means of transportation the enemy will hardly flud it convenient, if indeed possible, to return to Mississippl in any force. A small cavatry party may find a poorly compensated necessity of remaining, with-out, however, the least embarrassment or effect upon our future operations. The expedition may therefore be and second, in the wresting of the State from the po session of the enemy.

The signal failure of Gen. W. S. Smith's cavalry column which should have set out from Memphis on the 1st of the month, but did not until the 11th, defeated a well laid plan on the part of Sherman to capture the larger was expected of him; for until the 6th our column was engaging the main strength of the enemy's cavalry under Lee. However, when Lee found it was our object to penetrate east of the Pearl river, and having an insufficleat force to successfully delay our march, he moved north and concentrated all his strength-viz: the com his immediate command—against Smith, who by that time, should have passed completely out of reach of these troops and been well on the way to Demopolis, Ala., on the Tombigbee. His unaccountable delay, however, gave the enemy plenty of time to mature

his plans and successfully put them into execution.

The excuse gives, that when Smith heard Sherman had occupied Meridian be thought it unneces sary to go forward, is but a poor and griev ously unmilitary palitation of a defeat. The so licitude and detention experienced while forces were in Meridian in expectation of Smith's arrival are sufficient grounds for the belief that Smith had no scretionary privileges as regarded his return until the object of his mission was fully achieved.

If Smith had come up, even after the occupation of Meridian by General Sherman, there is no doubt we would have inflicted a still more lasting disaster upon the rebel cause than they met from the unaided exertions of the Sixteenth and Seventeenth corns.

In the entire expedition there were about eight hundred horses and mules captured and three hundred prisoners The agent of the Alabama sait works, with about ton thousand dollars on his person, was also taken. A large number of wagons, deserted by the enemy, were destroyed. The killed and wounded of the enemy will approximate two hundred. One piece of artillery and a number of small arms were taken. The damage done the railroads and buildings useful for army purposes if computed in dollars would be enormous at the present rates in the

Our loss in materies has been trifling, and one hundre and fifty will cover the killed, wounded and prisoners of both corps. The health of the troops during the march was excellent. But one man was left behind on accoun

In a few days Colonel Potts' brigade will reach here and be immediately furloughed and sent up the river. It seems to be the intention to get through with the furloughing of troops as quickly as possible, with a view to further activity in the coming spring.

> Vicksneng, March 4, 1864. SKIRMISHING NEAR CANTON.

Information has just been received here that the two corps have been ordered to this place. They are now in motion, and will arrive in two or will shortly be inaugurated. It is also reported that the rebel cavalry, under Stephen D. Lee, had attacked out ing had been going on. An officer of Lee's spirit and activity will not allow his troops much respite as long as there is an enemy within striking distance Having disposed to a handsome manner of General W. S. Smith, he has no doubt returned to the south in order to annoy our infantry. He will meet ices success here, and if not careful will experience

some unexpected consequences.

ARRIVAL OF COLONEL POTTS' BRIGADE. Yesterday Col. Fotts' furloughed brigade reached here, with all the captured stock and refugee negroes. As the procession entered one could not but contrast it with the triumphal entries of Roman recerals to olden times, and be impressed with the exceedingly democratic and unce tentations and matter of fact character of modern war The negroes are estimated at three thousand, mostly children. What will be done with them is now the question with the authorities. A place of settleidea of a negro settlement than a city of whites. In fact very few of the latter complexion are now to be seen on the streets, while the negroes lounge on every corner. Something must soon be done to oblige the negroes to la bor for their own support, or the government will her? itably experience a long looked for embarrasement from this immense source of useless expenditure of energy and

THE REDEL GENERAL POLK'S ADDRESS TO HIS

ARMY—HE CLAIMS A VICTORY, RTC.
GENERAL ORDERS—NO. 22.
HEADQUARTERS, DEMOPOLIS, Ala., Feb. 26, 1364.
The Licutemant General commanding offers his confunctions to the army on the successful termination of the camming but decad.

he campaign just closed.

The cheerfulness with which the troops have borne the The cheerfulness with which the troops have corns us fatigues and inconveniences of the march, and their ready acquiescence in the orders directing their movements, have entitled them to the highest commendation. To the firmness and good conduct of the men, and the skill and judgment of their officers in checking the commy famarch, the Commanding General is indebted for securing the public stores and depriving the evemy of the use of the railroads and other facilities for foraging and subsistence.

the campaign.

That concentration broke down the only means of subsisting his infantry. His column was defeated and routed, and his whole force compelled to make a hast retreat. Never did a grand campaign, languarated with such pretensious, terminate more inglorieusly. With a force three times that which was opposed to its advance they have been defeated and forced to leave the field with a loss of near, small arms and artiflery. loss of men, small arms and artillery. Both their columns are retreating before the squadroi

of our pursuing cavalry.

The Lieutenant General commanding offers his grateful thanks to the whole army, and trusts that this opening campaign of the new year may be an earnest of the successes which await us in the future.

Hy command of Lieutenant General POLK.

Thos. M. Jack, A. A. G.

ARMY OF THE POTOMAC.

General Meade's Return to His Come mand-Serious Ruttroad Accidents &co HEADQUARTERS, ARMY OF THE POTOMAC, MARCH 14, 1864. General Meade returned to the army to-day. His realth seems to be excellent, and the reports in regard to als resigning are said to be without foundation.

An accident occurred to the mail train on the Orange and Alexandria Railroad this evening, a few miles north f Brandy Station, caused by the giving way of a brake on a freight car, which threw the car from the track, completely demolishing one and badly damaging the

There were some herses in the car which was destroyed, but they escaped with slight bruises. The mail car was thrown down a slight embankment, making a complete summersault, and throwing the mail carriers and part. They fell fortunately on a large pile of newspapers and mail bags, which saved them from serious injury. Some of them had thought of jumping from the cars, but fortunately changed their minds, as if they had was they escaped with alight bruises.

Several soldiers were more or less injured, among whom guard on the train, who was badly wounded in the hand; James W. Marsh, slightly; J. G. Cramp, slightly; Sergeant Reed, slightly; John Mathews, slightly, all of the Third Indiana cavalry, and W. Ruhm, Fourth New York cavalry, severely; also Littlefield, in the hand. A negro, nam Dennis Paxe, belonging to the Commissary Department was standing on a platform, it is said, and falling between from his body and otherwise horribly mutilated. A num ber of others received alight injuries; but the above are

The train at the time was going at a rather slow rate of speed, otherwise the consequences would have been more

An accident occurred on Saturday to a freight train near the same place, caused by a hand car being left on the track and the engineer running into it, throwing some cars from the track and injuring a half ozen soldiers, although none seriously. though none seriously.

A member of the Ninety-third New York, a sergent named Rappel, was arrested to day for uttering disloyal sentiments and will be tried by court martial.

EAST TENNESSEE.

The Positions of Longstreet and Buck-

mer. Cummertand Gap, March 13, 1864. Information deemed reliable says that General Longstreet's hondquarters are at Greenville, Tonu., and General Buckner's at Bull's Gap. Their main forces are between these two points, and

their pickets eight miles above Morristown. General Vaughn is at Itogersville, and General Gains at Long's Milis, eight miles below Jonesville, Vs.

THE BOMBARDMENT'OF FORT POWELL.

Daily Report of the Progress of the Work-Three Hundred and Eightyfour Shots Thrown at the Fort-Thirty. nine Take Effect-Admirat Farragut Off Grunt's Pass, &c. OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE.

OFF GRANT'S PASS, Fob. 23, 1864. The hombardment of Fort Powell, at Grant's Pass,

which is the key to Mobile, was commenced by our mor-tar fleet and gunboats to day. A steady fire was kept up to fifty minutes past four P. M., when our vessels ceased firing. The fort fired every half hour and their runboats at intervals of forty minutes. Our vesse's have driven the rebel gunbeats a distance

The attack will be renewed to morrow. FERRUARY 24, 1864.

The bombardment of Fort Powell was renewed this moraing at five minutes past eight. One gun at the fort bas been dismantled by our shot and shell. Rebel gunboats keep at a distance.

Very little firing has been done by the fort.

TEN MINUTE: PAST FIVE P. M.
Up to this time the fort has been silent. We have thrown three hundre! and eighty-four shots, thirty-nine of which have struck the fort and done good execution. The robel flag still flies from the fort.

Admiral Farragut is here. The United States steamer Octorara is making good work. Fort Powell must fall, and then the communication with Mobile and Fort Morgan is cut off.

The United States gunboat Gertrude is here, and acting as signal ship. Firing will be kept up during the night, to prevent the

THIRD DAY. FERRUARY 28-7-10 A. M Figing was kept up during the night at intervals of an hour. Our fleet ceased fring at six o'closs this m ing, on account of beavy fog.

Admiral Farragut has gone to Ship Island.

Letter from Clement L. Vallandigham

Letter from Clement L. Vallandigham.
THE RECENT ATTACK ON THE OFFICE OF THE DATTON EMPIRE.

Winneson, C. W., March 7, 1866.

Messirs. Hundard & Rectirishs, Dayton, Chic.

Genilement of the "riddling" of the Empire office by announcement of the "riddling" of the Empire office by "furfloughed soldiers." I offer you no sympathy, for that will avail nothing now or herositer. I do express to you my profound regret that you were not prepared to indice on the spot, and in the midst of the assault, the complete punishment which the assaulants deserved; but I plate punishment which the assaulants deserved; but I may ratified to learn that some of them did soon after receive their deserts. But these cowerdly acts cannot always be guarded against. And they do not primarily come from the "soldiers." There is, therefore, but one remedy for past and proventive of future midities; and that is, instant, summary and ample reprisads upon the persons and property of the men at home who, by language and conduct, are always inciting to these outrages. No legal or military punishment is ever indicted upon the immediate instruments. Retaination, therefore, is the only and the rightful remedy in times like these. I speak advisedly, and recommend it in all cases hereafter. It is of no avail to announce the falseboot that "both parties condemn it, after the destruction has been consummated. The time has gone by for obedience without protection. I see decined language; but the continuel recurrence outrages—frequently attended with murder, without redress—demands it. They must